

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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# FORTUNES WASHED AWAY

A Series of  
Dramatizations  
of Better  
Land Use

No. 119 August 3, 1940 1:15 p.m.

"PIONEERS FROM LICKING COUNTY"

## W·L·W CINCINNATI

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and dates, which appears to be a record of some kind. The names are written in a cursive script, and the dates are in a more formal, printed style. The list is organized into columns, with names in the first column and dates in the second column.

2. The second part of the document is a series of handwritten notes or entries. These are written in a cursive script and are organized into a list format. Each entry appears to be a separate item, possibly a record of a transaction or an event.

3. The third part of the document is a series of handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second part. These are also written in a cursive script and are organized into a list format. Each entry appears to be a separate item, possibly a record of a transaction or an event.

4. The fourth part of the document is a series of handwritten notes or entries, similar to the previous parts. These are also written in a cursive script and are organized into a list format. Each entry appears to be a separate item, possibly a record of a transaction or an event.

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1900

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$

1990

1



SOUND: Thunder and rain...

ANNOUNCER

Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

ANNOUNCER

At the dawn of the nineteenth century, Elias Hughes and John Ratliff settled in an old Indian corn field in Licking County, Ohio. Here was a forest in all its native majesty and beauty, a forest of venerable antiquity. Here was the brilliance of autumnal foliage, the splendor of the vernal flowers. This was the land of the pioneers.

ORGAN: (softly behind) AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL.

ANNOUNCER

"Ask who of all our race have shown  
The largest heart, the kindest hand;  
Ask who with lavish hands have strown  
Rich blessings over all the land;  
Ask who has sown that we might reap  
The harvest, rich with seventy years;  
And every heart and every voice  
Make answer: Licking's pioneers."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

Elias Hughes and John Ratliff were pioneers in Licking County. A pioneer in the same county, but in a far different manner, is E. H. Stradley, who farms the steep hills of Mary Ann township. In 1904...

SOUND: Cash register...

EMERSON

Thank you, sir...and come again. Oh, hello, Ed.

STRADLEY

Morning, Mr. Emerson.

EMERSON

What's on your mind today...a new suit, a pair of overalls, or just the time of day?

STRADLEY (evasively)

Oh, I...well, I just thought I'd drop in and say howdy, if you weren't busy.

EMERSON

Not too busy. Say! What's this I read in the paper about you winning all those prizes over at Fallsburg?

STRADLEY

Yeah, I guess I was kinda lucky. Dad gave me a couple of calves, and I took good care of them, and, well...they carried off the money.

EMERSON

That's mighty fine. You're just like your father, Ed...you're going to be a real farmer.

STRADLEY

I hope to be. I've just got enough conceit in me to think I can make a go of it.

EMERSON

Why don't you buy a farm of your own? You're young, you're about to get married, I hear...and there's a real future in farming right here in Licking County. Why, sometimes I wish I'd never been in the clothing business...I'd like to get out on a farm myself, and take it apart and see what makes it tick.

STRADLEY

Why, Mr. Emerson...that's what I came in to see you about. I've got my eye on a farm over near Wilkins' Corner. It's gonna be put up at a sheriff's sale...

EMERSON

Oh, Oh...one of those farms, huh?

STRADLEY

It's about the sorriest farm in the township, but like I said, I've got enough conceit in me to think I can build it up. Trouble is...

EMERSON

Money?

STRADLEY

Yes, sir. It's only 88 acres, and so washed and gullied that you could hide a team of horses in every hollow. It won't cost much, but...well, I'm just a poor boy looking for a start. I tried the bank, Mr. Emerson, but when I told them about the kind of farm it is, they didn't see their way clear to loaning me any money. I thought that maybe, you...well, if you want to take a chance...

EMERSON (chuckling)

Stradley, I think you're a pretty good gamble. I like your spunk.

STRADLEY

You mean that...

EMERSON

....yes, you go to the sheriff's sale, and see what happens. If you can buy the farm, I think I'll be able to help you out.

STRADLEY

Gee, Mr. Emerson! Why, in just a few years....

EMERSON (good naturedly)

Get out of here! You go to that sale!

SOUND: Crowd noises, automobiles, etc., gradually dispersing....

POUND

Stradley, looks like you've bought yourself a farm.

STRADLEY

I'll say I have. It's been sold twice for taxes. (LAUGHS) Maybe I'll be the next one.

POUND

Seriously, I wouldn't be at all surprised. Not that I'm trying to discourage you, just when you're getting started.

STRADLEY

Oh, you won't discourage me. I'm just pig-headed enough to think I can build it up.

POUND

You can't make it any worse. Why, you were the only one that bid on it.

STRADLEY

Who else but a poor guy like me would?

POUND

Well, Ed...I had a notion to buy it myself.

STRADLEY

You did?

POUND

Sure. It's belonged to the Pound family off and on, you know, and I sorta wanted to keep it that way. But I knew you were a young kid wanting a farm, and a family, and I decided that maybe you ought to have a chance at it. Then besides, I've got plenty of work on my own farm. But what do you plan to do with it?



STRADLEY

Here's the way I figure. It hasn't got a fence on the place. The woods have been cut off. The soil has washed so much that folks have been saying that rocks are growing on it. The thing to do is to go to work...build up the fertility...build up the fertility, or get ready to move out.

ORGAN: THE GOOD GREEN ACRES OF HOME, fading...

ANNOUNCER

Oh, many a young man would have looked at the poor soil and turned to something else that appeared easier or had more promise of immediate income. But Stradley thought that poor land could be improved, that hard work and careful planning would bring success, even to a little hill farm that had been sadly neglected. It was hard work...(fade).

SOUND: Man hammering board with hammer....

FOUND

Man alive, Stradley! You believe in doing things the hard way.

STRADLEY

I couldn't get my lime spreader up here, Amsey...it's too steep. So I just hauled the lime up on this sled, and now the blamed thing's trying to fall apart.

SOUND: More licks with hammer...

STRADLEY

There! That ought to hold for another rod or two, anyhow.

POUND

You really go in for lime, don't you?

STRADLEY

I've seen what it will do. My gosh, the first year I farmed this place, the corn was so poor I could carry all the shocks under my arm. Only got three little loads of redtop hay. But it's getting better every year. Yes sir, the man that discovered lime ought to have a monument. Why, look at that field over there.

POUND

By George! The last time I saw it, it didn't have anything but poverty grass.

STRADLEY

Poverty grass and broomsedge. But if you'll go over there, you'll see the bluegrass coming in mighty fast.

POUND

: Did you seed it?

STRADLEY

No, sir! Just plastered it with lime and manure and some 2-12-6 fertilizer. That's going to be good pasture for my cattle. Yes sir, Amsey...you've got to build up the fertility. People told me it couldn't be done, but I've found out it can. You can't build up a hill farm by going fishing, or by sitting around and hoping that a miracle will happen. But if you use a good mixture of lime and fertilizer and common sense, mixed in with some elbow grease and sweat, you can do it. It may take years....

ORGAN: BRIEF BRIDGE, fading...

ANNOUNCER

It did take years, but it brought results....

SOUND: Calf bawling...

STRADLEY

That's as fine a yearling as I ever saw, son.

SON

She sure is. Say, dad, when Mr. Kreidler was out here the other day he said something about the livestock show at the theatre on the fifteenth...remember?

STRADLEY

Yes...

SON

How about me entering my cow?

STRADLEY

I should say so! My, my...it's been nearly 40 years since I won my first prize money.

SON

Gee...cows have done all right for you, haven't they, dad?

STRADLEY

Good cows, son. Good improved stock is the same as good improved land. Good dairy cattle and a good fertility program have made it possible for me to bring up my family...including you.

SON

I like good cows. I like Bossy best.

STRADLEY

She comes from a good line. The ice cream company has raised my base, too...because the cows are better. I've been on this farm for 36 years, son, and I know what I'm talking about. You may be running this farm some day, so pay close attention to what I say.

SON

I'll bet I know what you're going to say. Always get rid of boarder cows.



STRADLEY

That's part of it. But look out over the farm. It's pretty steep...and what do you see?

SON

Well, there's the house, and there's the chicken house...

STRADLEY

I mean the land.

SON

Oh. You mean the pastures, and meadows...

STRADLEY

That's it exactly. These hills are too steep to be plowed. I shouldn't even plow that hillside over there, but I'm plowing in with contour strip cropping, so the alfalfa strips will slow down the washing. But practically all of the land is in grass. You have to have hay to feed the cows.

SON

They like corn.

ORGAN: Sneak in AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL.

STRADLEY

Yes, but the land doesn't like the corn. Next year I'm going to fill that silo with hay. Oh, son...if you could have seen this land 40 years ago. I've been building it up year after year. I didn't do it for show either. It was just because I was a poor boy who had to farm hill land. Roe Emerson gave me my start. I gave the land a start. And young fellow, when you farm this land... remember what I'm saying to you today. Take care of the land. If we don't take care of our soil, America will cease to exist as a prosperous nation. We must hold this soil.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.



ANNOUNCER

That is the true story of E. H. Stradley, who farms the steep hills of eastern Licking County, Ohio. And now, once again we turn to the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and here is Ewing Jones.

JONES

Thanks, \_\_\_\_\_. Thirty-six years of careful husbandry on this farm have made quite a contrast in comparison with some surrounding farms. The Stradley farm nestles between two long ridges...it has good buildings, high-quality livestock, heavy crop yields, a high cash income--while in the immediate neighborhood you'll find land that once had just as much original fertility, but has been abandoned--due to soil erosion. And by the way, Mr. Stradley pioneered in another field: he was the first cooperator with the Newark CCC camp, which is operated by the Soil Conservation Service. He and Glenn W. Poe, the camp conservationist, worked out quite a comprehensive soil-saving plan to continue his long-range soil conservation and fertility building program.

ANNOUNCER

And that, Ewing, is quite a program...even for this hot weather we've been having.

JONES

And this hot weather reminds me that a lot of farm ponds have been drying up. That new bulletin, "Farm Ponds," should be of help to farmers in the future...and this is to say to those farmers...if you want a copy of the illustrated bulletin, "Farm Ponds," just drop a postcard to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio. An echo, \_\_\_\_\_?

ANNOUNCER

This is \_\_\_\_\_ echoing, by special request, that a copy of the farm pond bulletin may be obtained by writing to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio.

SOUND: Boom of cannon...

ANNOUNCER

This week we salute!

JONES

This week we salute the farmers of Logan County, Kentucky....first in the state to send in a petition for a soil conservation district under the provisions of the act passed by the last session of the Kentucky legislature. Farmers in Logan County are soil conservation-conscious.

SOUND: Telegraph key....

ANNOUNCER

News in the conservation world!

JONES

Here's news from C. A. Lewis, Kentucky Agricultural Extension editor....please, \_\_\_\_\_.

ANNOUNCER

Farmers in Wolfe County, Kentucky, have ordered 800 tons of super-phosphate--an all-time high. That should help to establish meadows and thicken the cover on Wolfe County pastures...and save a heap of erosion.

And farmers of America last month ordered more than three hundred thousand tons of liming materials to sweeten their sour and eroding lands. This brings the total orders for liming materials this year to approximately two million tons, under the AAA grant of aid program. And that much limestone will do a lot toward establishing meadows, and stopping soil erosion all over this land of ours.

JONES

And now, one final word: this land of ours has suffered horribly from the effects of soil erosion. But we know, now, that soil erosion can be controlled--it is being controlled--by such good farmers as E. H. Stradley, of Licking County, Ohio.

ORGAN: BRIEF BRIDGE.

SOUND: Bawling of cows, bleating of sheep....

FARMER (crying hysterically)

Oh, I'm to blame. It's all my fault. My cattle are thirsty.

(CRIES) Oh, it's my fault...oh, oh...

WOMAN (fading in)

Jim! Jim, what is it? Speak to me, Jim! Are you hurt,

FARMER

I'm all right, Clara. I'm all right, but my cows...my sheep...

WOMAN

What's the matter with them?

FARMER

They're thirsty, Clara. Listen to them! And the farm pond is all dried up.

WOMAN

What are we going to do?

FARMER

Yes...what are we going to do?

WOMAN

I'll tell you what we'll do...no, let \_\_\_\_\_ tell you.

ANNOUNCER

Send a letter, or a penny postcard, to Soil Conservation, Dayton, Ohio, and ask for the new bulletin "Farm Ponds."

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

JONES

This is Ewing Jones, saying goodbye until next week at this same time, when we bring you another episode of "Fortunes Washed Away."

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

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